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CLASSIFICATION SECRET-CONTROL/US OFFICIAL ONLY CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT

TOPIC Construction work on Ruegen Island

50X1-HUM

EVALUATION

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SOURCE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 5 May 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Eight to ten Soviet officers and civilians inspected the harbor and the construction work on the mole in Lauterbach, Ruegen Island, during the second half of November 1949.

   The officers were daily ferried to Vilm Island off Lauterbach. They allegedly did surveying work there.

2. It is said that the Soviets plan to improve the harbors of Lauterbach and Vilm Island in an effort to establish a naval base there.

   When the frost period is over and as soon as excavation work is feasible, this area will be placed off limits.

3. About three hundred 16 to 50-year-old men were gathered in Stralsund in late December 1949. They had been drafted by Mecklenburg labor offices for excavation work on Ruegen and Usedom Islands.

   They were told that they were to build a naval base for the Soviet protective power and that they were expected to work to the best of their ability.

   Of the 300 men, 200 were detailed to Lauterbach on Ruegen Island and 100 to Bansin on Usedom Island.

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[redacted] Comment:

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a. The channel to Lauterbach harbor and Vilm Island is no more than 4.5 to 5 meters deep and therefore navigable only for small craft.

b. Because of its limited usefulness and the intricate fairway, Lauterbach harbor was not used by the German Navy.

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